



A meeting of the Board of Health for Oxford Elgin St. Thomas Health Unit was held on Thursday, April 25, 2024 commencing at 1:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

Ms. C. Agar	Board Member
Mr. J. Couckuyt	Board Member
Mr. J. Herbert	Board Member
Mr. G. Jones	Board Member (Vice-Chair)
Ms. B. Martin	Board Member (Chair)
Mr. S. Molnar	Board Member
Mr. M. Peterson	Board Member
Mr. J. Preston	Board Member
Mr. M. Ryan	Board Member
Mr. L. Rowden	Board Member
Mr. D. Shinedling	Board Member
Mr. D. Warden	Board Member
Ms. C. St. John	Chief Executive Officer (ex officio)
Dr. N. Tran	Medical Officer of Health (ex officio)
Ms. W. Lee	Executive Assistant

GUESTS:

Ms. J. Buchanan	Graham Scott Enns
Ms. J. Gordon	Administrative Assistant
Mr. P. Heywood	Program Director
Ms. S. Maclsaac	Program Director
Mr. D. McDonald	Director, Corporate Services and Human Resources
Ms. M. Nusink	Director, Finance
Ms. N. Rowe	Manager, Communications
Mr. I. Santos	Manager, Information Technology
Mr. D. Smith	Program Director

MEDIA:

Mr. R. Perry*	Aylmer Express
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**represents virtual participation*

REGRETS:

Mr. D. Mayberry	Board Member
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**REMINDER OF DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF
WHEN ITEM ARISES**

1.1 CALL TO ORDER, RECOGNITION OF QUORUM

The meeting was called to order at 12:58 p.m.

1.2 AGENDA

Resolution # (2024-BOH-0425-1.2)

Moved by J. Preston

Seconded by D. Warden

That the agenda for the Southwestern Public Health Board of Health meeting for April 25, 2024 be approved.

Carried.

1.3 Reminder to disclose Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof when Item Arises.

B. Martin indicated she would be in conflict regarding Item 2.0-2.1 Nomination of the Board of Health Chair to the alPHa Executive Board in the Chief Executive Officer's Open Session Report and would recuse herself from the discussion and leave the room at that time, whereby G. Jones would assume the duties of the Chair during that time.

B. Martin, M. Ryan, and M. Peterson indicated that as members of the Oxford County Council they would be in conflict regarding an item in the Chief Executive Officer's Closed Session Report related to matters of property and would recuse themselves from the discussion and leave the room at that time, whereby G. Jones would assume the duties of the Chair during that time.

1.4 Reminder that meetings are recorded for minute-taking purposes.

2.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Resolution # (2024-BOH-0425-2.1)

Moved by J. Herbert

Seconded by S. Molnar

That the minutes for the Southwestern Public Health Board of Health meeting for March 28, 2024 be approved.

Carried.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR INFORMATION.DISCUSSION.DECISION

5.1 Chief Executive Officer Report for April 25, 2024

Jennifer Buchanan from Graham Scott Enns reviewed, in detail, the audited financial statements with the Board of Health.

J. Buchanan noted that this was a clean audit with no concerns expressed.

C. St. John expressed her appreciation for J. Buchanan and Graham Scott Enns' expertise in public health nuances, ongoing support, and overall excellence.

It was noted that the financial statements are available online for residents to access in the open session package for April 25, 2024 and previous audited statements are available on the SWPH website.

J. Buchanan left the room following her presentation to the Board of Health.

Resolution # (2024-BOH-0425-5.1-3.1)

Moved by G. Jones

Seconded by C. Agar

That Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health approve the audited financial statements for the period ending December 31, 2023.

Carried.

B. Martin recused herself from the room at 1:16 p.m. prior to the review and discussion of Resolution # 2024-BOH-0425-5.1-2.1, Nomination of the Board of Health Chair to the alPHa Executive Board. G. Jones assumed the role of the Chair.

The group indicated their full support for the Chair's nomination to the alPHa Board of Directors and alPHa Board of Health Section Executive. The group asked if there would be any value in seeking additional backing from SWPH's neighbouring health units or providing letters of support from the funding municipalities and C. St. John indicated she would incorporate these suggestions if appropriate. J. Preston indicated he would be pleased to sign the nomination form alongside G. Jones.

Resolution # (2024-BOH-0425-5.1-2.1)

Moved by J. Preston

Seconded by D. Warden

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health approve the nomination of Bernia Martin to the alPHa Board of Directors and alPHa Board of Health Section Executive for the 2024-2026 period and further that two Board of Health members sign the nomination form as sponsors of this nomination.

Carried.

B. Martin returned to the room at 1:22 p.m. and resumed the duties of the Chair.

Resolution # (2024-BOH-0425-5.1-2.3)

Moved by J. Preston

Seconded by D. Warden

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health approve the re-convening of the Governance Standing Committee, effective April 25, 2024.

Carried.

D. Shinedling, M. Peterson, and S. Molnar indicated their interest in joining the Governance Standing Committee.

D. Warden noted it may be of value for the Board to consider reconvening the Finance and Facilities Standing Committee as well.

Resolution # (2024-BOH-0425-5.1)

Moved by G. Jones

Seconded by M. Peterson

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health appoint Graham Scott Enns as the auditing firm for the year ending December 31, 2024.

Carried.

Resolution # (2024-BOH-0425-5.1-3.4)

Moved J. Couckuyt

Seconded by M. Peterson

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health accept SWPH's Monthly Financial Control Checklist for April 25, 2024.

Carried.

Resolution # (2024-BOH-0425-5.1-3.5)

Moved by J. Herbert

Seconded by J. Couckuyt

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health approve the revised Credit Facility Agreement with RBC for April 25, 2024.

Carried.

J. Couckuyt noted with thanks, for the excellent rate afforded to SWPH in the swap agreement for the 1230 building that was negotiated by C. St. John in 2013.

Resolution # (2024-BOH-0425-5.1)

Moved by M. Peterson

Seconded by D. Warden

That the Board of Health accept the Chief Executive Officer's report, effective April 25, 2024.

Carried.

5.2 Medical Officer of Health's Report

Dr. Tran reviewed his report which also included a review of the Chief Medical Officer of Health's (CMOH) 2023 Annual Report which focussed on Tobacco/Vaping products, Cannabis, Alcohol, and Opioids.

Dr. Ninh Tran outlined four key areas of action for addressing substance use disorders: legislation, pricing, access, and harm reduction. The issue of substance abuse and its impact on society has been compounded by the Covid-19 pandemic, during which deaths and harms from tobacco, alcohol, and opioids have worsened. The government and society must collaborate to tackle these alcohol-related harms and other substance use issues.

Joe Preston pointed out that the legalization and decriminalization of marijuana could potentially generate additional funds for healthcare, but this expectation has not been fully realized.

Jim Herbert and Joe Preston noted the need for more help from well-funded agencies in Ontario to address addiction and mental health issues. Dr. Ninh Tran noted SWPH is actively working with local organizations such as the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) on local responses and initiatives.

Dr. Ninh Tran indicated there are emerging issues with cannabis and vaping in the region, including healthcare costs and impaired driving. D. Shinedling asked what level of cannabis and vaping use is in the local area. Dr. Tran indicated that he does not have concrete numbers on hand, but there are growing concerns.

Marcus Ryan expressed concern about balancing political interests with evidence-based strategies in the report and noted that the CMOH's 2023 Annual Report lacks a degree of evidence-based direction. J. Preston remarked on the parental approach of the report.

S. Molnar asked for clarification about what further work SWPH will do to align with the CMOH's report and Dr. Tran indicated a follow-up report will be provided at a later date.

J. Preston noted that vaping is an issue and asked how its presence became so strong so quickly. Dr. Tran responded that the challenge for the Province is that it lacks the ability to respond nimbly to emerging substance use and its permutations and this is one example.

Resolution # (2024-BOH-0425-5.2)

Moved by D. Warden

Seconded by M. Peterson

That Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health accept the Medical Officer of Health's report for April 25, 2024.

Carried.

6.0 NEW BUSINESS

7.0 TO CLOSED SESSION

Resolution # (2024-BOH-0425-C7)

Moved by M. Peterson

Seconded by J. Preston

That the Board of Health move to closed session in order to consider one or more the following as outlined in the Ontario Municipal Act:

- (a) the security of the property of the municipality or local board;
- (b) personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees;
- (c) a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality or local board;
- (d) labour relations or employee negotiations;
- (e) litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the municipality or local board;
- (f) advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose;
- (g) a matter in respect of which a council, board, committee or other body may hold a closed meeting under another Act;
- (h) information explicitly supplied in confidence to the municipality or local board by Canada, a province or territory or a Crown agency of any of them;
- (i) a trade secret or scientific, technical, commercial, financial or labour relations information, supplied in confidence to the municipality or local board, which, if disclosed, could reasonably be expected to prejudice significantly the competitive position or interfere significantly with the contractual or other negotiations of a person, group of persons, or organization;
- (j) a trade secret or scientific, technical, commercial or financial information that belongs to the municipality or local board and has monetary value or potential monetary value; or
- (k) a position, plan, procedure, criteria or instruction to be applied to any negotiations carried on or to be carried on by or on behalf of the municipality or local board. 2001, c. 25, s. 239 (2); 2017, c. 10, Sched. 1, s. 26.

Other Criteria:

- (a) a request under the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, if the council, board, commission or other body is the head of an institution for the purposes of that Act; or
- (b) an ongoing investigation respecting the municipality, a local board or a municipally-controlled corporation by the Ombudsman appointed under the *Ombudsman Act*, an Ombudsman referred to in subsection 223.13 (1) of this Act, or the investigator referred to in subsection 239.2 (1). 2014, c. 13, Sched. 9, s. 22.

Carried.

8.0 RISING AND REPORTING OF CLOSED SESSION

Resolution # (2024-BOH-0425-C8)

Moved by M. Peterson

Seconded by J. Preston

That the Board of Health rise with a report.

Carried.

B. Martin, M. Peterson, and M. Ryan recused themselves from the room at 3:09 p.m. prior to the voting of Resolution # 2024-BOH-0425-C3.1-1.1. G. Jones assumed the role of Chair. The three board members also recused themselves from the room for all discussion on this matter.

Resolution # (2024-BOH-0425-C3.1-1.1)

Moved by J. Preston

Seconded by D. Warden

That the Board of Health ratify the signing of the lease renewals of Southwestern Public Health's Woodstock locations effective May 1, 2024.

Carried.

B. Martin, M. Peterson, and M. Ryan returned to the room at 3:10 p.m. B. Martin resumed the duties of the Chair.

Resolution # (2024-BOH-0425-C3.1)

Moved by G. Jones

Seconded by J. Herbert

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health accept the Chief Executive Officer's Report for April 25, 2024.

Carried.

Resolution # (2024-BOH-0425-C3.2)

Moved by M. Ryan

Seconded by J. Preston

WHEREAS Southwestern Public Health is a recent amalgamation of Oxford County, Elgin County, and the City of St. Thomas; and

WHEREAS staff continue to work, as it has previously, in collaboration with all surrounding Health Units to enhance service delivery, build strong community partnerships, and provide continued advocacy for public health; and

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario has encouraged local public health agencies to consider amalgamations pursuant to its Strengthening Public Health initiative; and

WHEREAS the Board of Health recognizes that any merger of local public health agencies has risks and benefits to service level, community members, staff, and municipalities; and

WHEREAS Southwestern Public Health, Brant County Health Unit, and Haldimand-Norfolk Health Unit have engaged in a thorough period of consideration and due diligence with regard to the potential merger of the three health units; then

BE IT RESOLVED that the staff of Southwestern Public Health proceed as directed by the Board of Health in Report 2024-BOH-0425-C3.2 and verbal recommendation by the committee.

Carried.

D. Warden asked for a recorded vote.

Agar, Catherine	Yea
Couckuyt, Jack	Yea
Herbert, Jim	Yea
Jones, Grant	Yea
Martin, Bernia	Yea
Mayberry, David	Absent
Molnar, Stephen	Yea
Peterson, Mark	Yea
Preston, Joe	Yea
Rowden, Lee	Yea
Ryan, Marcus	Yea
Shinedling, Davin	Yea
Warden, David	Yea

The motion was unanimous and carried.

9.0 FUTURE MEETING & EVENTS

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:14 p.m.

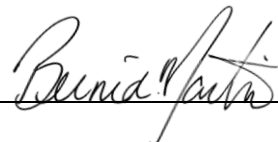
Resolution # (2024-BOH-0425-10)

Moved by M. Peterson

Seconded by M. Ryan

That the meeting adjourns to meet again on Thursday, May 23, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. or earlier at the call of the Chair.

Carried.

Confirmed:  _____